

1 **ABSTRACT**

2 Timecoding systems, methods and data structures are described which, in
3 some embodiments, permit a true time to be ascertained from media samples
4 whose timecodes contain an amount of drift which can arise from having non-
5 integer frame rates. Inventive methods incorporate the use of an offset parameter
6 that describes a time difference between a timecode and a true time associated
7 with a media sample. The inventive approaches can be incorporated with and used
8 compatibly in connection with current timecoding paradigms such as SMPTE
9 timecode and the like. Further embodiments permit timecoding to take place at
10 the field level of a frame. This can permit true-time calculations to be done to
11 ascertain the true time associated with individual fields of a frame. In addition,
12 other embodiments provide novel counting compensation methods that are
13 directed to reducing the drift that can be associated with media samples that are
14 sampled at non-integer frame rates.

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